

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4281  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008  
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether cases of racial discrimination against Indian students in overseas countries have come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the country-wise details thereof during the last two years;
- (c) whether the helpline introduced by the Government for the welfare of overseas Indians has delivered the desired results; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to protect the interests of the Indian students abroad?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) & (b): The desired information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when compiled.
- (c): Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has set up an Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) with the following objectives:

# Information dissemination on matters relating to emigration

# Registering, responding to and monitoring complaints received from emigrant workers

# Grievance redressal and follow up with stakeholders

The OWRC functions with a toll free number 1800 11 3090, accessible from anywhere in India for rendering assistance to Indian workers abroad and those who are desirous of going abroad for employment. At present, the helpline is functioning in seven languages, viz. Hindi, English, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Kannada and Telugu from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm, seven days a week. The Helpline is being availed by a number of emigrant workers and is providing useful assistance to them.

- (d): The help-line set up by the MOIA in the OWRC is essentially for emigrating workers and does not cover the Indian student community abroad who are free to approach the nearest Indian Mission/Post abroad for such assistance.